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(*b*) whether qualified medical officers are employed in these estates;

(*c*) whether schools are maintained in these estates; if so, in how many;

(*d*) how many cases of the coolies running away from the estates have been brought to the notice of the Magistrate;

(*e*) the reasons for their so running away; and

(*f*) whether there is suitable housing accommodation for these coolies?

A.—(*a*) The Government have no information as regards the total number of estates in the Nilgiris. The number of coolies employed there is 12,000.

(*b*) On the larger estates there are hospitals or dispensaries in charge of apothecaries or sub-assistant surgeons. Smaller estates utilize the hospitals in adjoining estates and the services of the medical officers attached thereto.

(*c*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to clause (2) of question No. 997 asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held in October last. There is no information regarding the number of estates in which schools are maintained.

(*d*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the statement on page 5 of G.O. No. 793, Law (General), dated the 8th March 1924, which was placed on the Editors' Table.

(*e*) The Government have no information.

(*f*) All labourers except members of the jungle tribes are housed free in brick, stone or laterite buildings roofed with tiles or iron.

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

Forests.

Recruitment to the Indian Forest Service.

331 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a notification in the Development Department in the *Fort St. George Gazette* that four officers of the Indian Forest Service have been appointed by the Secretary of State and have arrived at Bombay;

(*b*) whether the Local Government made any recommendations for the recruitment of these officers; and

(*c*) what the appointments are which have necessitated this recruitment to the Imperial Service from England?

A.—(*a*) The notification was issued by the Government in the Development Department.

(*b*) The Government were consulted as to the number of officers of the Indian Forest Service to be allotted to this Presidency in 1924.

(*c*) The Indian Forest Service in this Presidency was 13 short of the sanctioned cadre at the end of 1924. The officers in question were recruited to fill four of these vacancies.